

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 5652

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, RQ, LI, US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S LETTER TO SECRETARY ON KOREA AND
PUERTO RICO

GENEVA PASS AMBASSADOR CARTER

REF: (A) STATE 188798, (B) MONROVIA 5318

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AUGUST 4 LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO
SECRETARY, REPLYING TO LATTER'S JULY 30 MESSAGE TO TOLBERT ON
KOREA AND PUERTO RICO:

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS THE
RECEIPT OF YOUR KIND LETTER IN WHICH YOU REFERRED TO OUR CORIDAL AND
FRUTIFUL EXCHANGES DURING YOUR VISIT TO MONROVIA EARLIER IN THE
YEAR, AND SHARED WITH ME YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE KOREAN QUESTION AND
PUERTO RICO, BOTH LIKELY TO BE RAISED AT THE FORTHCOMING INTER-
NATIONAL GATHERINGS. I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY
OWN VIEWS ABOUT THESE ISSUES, WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY VERY SIMILAR
TO YOURS.

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AS YOU ARE AWARE, LIBERIA HAS ADVOCATED WITH CONSISTENCY THE

PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF ALL DIVDED PEOPLES WHO GENUINELY SEEK REUNIFICATION. KOREA IS MOST CERTAINLY NO EXCEPTION; FOR WE HAVE IN CONCERT WITH OTHERS, CALLED FOR AN APPROACH WHICH FULLY RECOGNIZES THE FREELY EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE.

THE 1972 JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH INITIATED THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE DOES NOT ONLY PROVIDE A USEFUL GRAMWORK FOR CONTINUING TALKS, BUT REPRESENTS PERHAPS THE ONLY EXPRESSION TO DATE OF THE WILL OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE TO REUNITE. THAT WILL, WE BELIEVE, SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

LIBERIA LOOKS FORWARD TO STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH SHE ENJOYS WITH BOTH KOREAS. ANY MOVE BY ANY INTERNATIONAL BODY TO DENY ONE PART OF THE DIVIDED PENINSULA THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS AFFECTING ALL OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH MY GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION; FOR IT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS BEING IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION, A PRINCIPLE TO WHOSE COMMITMENT LIBERIA REMAINS FIRM.

CONSISTENT WITH THE POSITION WE TOOK LAST YEAR AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WE BELIEVE THAT WITH THE TERMINATION OF THE U.N. COMMAND MUST BE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS AS WILL PRESERVE THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A DURABLE PEACE FORMULA CAN EVOLVE. THIS IS WHY WE FIND WISDOM IN THE PROPOSAL OF YOUR GOVERNMENT WHICH CALLS FOR A CONFERENCE OF THE INTERESTED PARTIES ON KOREA. WE FEEL CERTAIN THAT NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION AND DETENTE IN ASIA WOULD BE GREATLY SERVED THEREBY.

WITH REGARD TO PUERTO RICO, OUR ATTITUDE HAS BEEN GUIDED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. WE SHARE THE VIEW OF YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO DECIDED ON A COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES WAS IN CONFORMITY WITH THAT PRINCIPLE.

HOWEVER, THE "CONSENSUS" MANNER IN WHICH DECISIONS ARE ARRIVED AT BY THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES MOVEMENT IS SUCH THAT IT IS QUITE DIFFICULT TO DISSADE THE MAJORITY FROM A GIVEN COURSE. AND AS A DVELOPING THIRD WORLD COUNTRY IN THIS LATTER CONFIDENTIAL

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HALF OF THE 70'S, LIBERIA WOULD BE HARD-PRESSED TO UNDERTAKE THE SUGGESTION WHICH YOU HAVE MADE IN RESPECT OF THIS MATTER.

BUT THIS DOES NOT, OF COURSE, REMOVE ALL POSSIBILITIES FROM OUR CONSIDERATION OF YOUR SUGGESTION TO THE EXTENT THAT THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE ATMOSPHERE PREVAILING AT THE CONFERENCE WOULD PROVIDE.

IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT PERSONALLY, BUT I WILL BE REPRESENTED BY MY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND A DELEGATION OF HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS WHO, IN KEEPING WITH THE POLICIES OF MY GOVERNMENT, WILL IN A TIMELY MANNER ARTICULATE OUR VIEWS AT THE CONFERENCE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AGAIN DURING MY FORTHCOMING VISIT TO YOUR GREAT COUNTRY WHEN WE WILL ONCE MORE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF DISCUSSING THIS AND OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

WITH KINDEST REGARDS AND BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, WILLIAM
R. TOLBERT, JR. END TEXT.

2. SIGNED ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED.

3. COMMENT. ON SUBSTANCE OF BOTH KOREA AND PUERTO RICO ISSUES TOLBERT AND GOL HAVE VIEWS SIMILAR TO OURS. AS DID FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS (MONROVIA 5318), TOLBERT MAKES CLEAR THAT WHEN, OCCASION ARISES GOL REPRESENTATIVES AT COLOMBO MEETINGS WILL IN GENERAL TERMS EXPRESS GOL VIEWS. IT IS ALSO CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT GOL REPS WILL NOT LIGHTLY DEPART FROM THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY OR BUCK A MILITANT CONSENSUS BY TAKING A LEAD TO BRING ABOUT TREATMENT OF PR AND KOREA ISSUES THAT SECRETARY'S LETTER SUGGESTS. TOLBERT'S DESIRE FOR A SUCCESSFUL STATE VISIT COULD BE A FACTOR IN GOL DELEGATIONS'S PERFORMANCE AT COLOMBO. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM U.S. OBSERVERS THERE ANY INDICATION THEY GET THAT THIS IS SO.
HORAN

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